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Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

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Point of View

Thesis Statement

80’s On the Big Screen

One day as I was watching some random show on television, the commercials came on. One that particularly caught my attention was one about one of my favorite movies, *Dirty Dancing*. They were advertising the showing of it every night for the entire weekend. Movies from the 1980’s are always popping up on television for the main reason that they are major successes. Nowadays, directors are remaking some of the major hits of the 1980’s; the most recent being *Fame*. As they were during that decade, they are big news now too. Many people today acquired the idea of having 1980’s movie-themed parties for birthdays, get-togethers, or any celebrations. I went to an 80’s-themed birthday party over the summer. I had a blast picking out my outfit inspired from the famous movie *Flashdance*. I chose the 1980’s decade because it was all about fun and excitement. Movies are a big part of what I watch in my spare time.

The first year of the decade brought two memorable movies: *Fame* and *Friday the 13th*. *Fame* is centered in the New York City High School for the Performing Arts. It follows four students in specialized training in acting, singing, dancing, etc. from the time they audition for the school through graduation. *Friday the 13th* is a horror film based on murder story around Camp Crystal Lake killing counselors; no one is safe. Ignoring the warnings, a new counselor reopens the camp, sparking even more murders. A boy that was formerly killed at the camp comes back for revenge on his birthday: Friday the 13th! (The 80s Movies Rewind, 2008) (IMDb, 1990-2009)

Two years later, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* was shown. According to American Decades (1996) it was the top- grossing movie of the 1980’s, bringing in $228,618,939. The movie is about a 10-year-old boy names Elliot who finds a little lost alien. He decides to keep him and help him find hid home. However, Elliot needs to hide E.T. for member of the task force are working day and night to track down the whereabouts of their little visitor from Outer Space. Throughout the adventure of trying to get in contact with home and keep safe from the force task, Elliot and E.T. form a close friendship. (The 80s Movies Rewind, 2008) (IMDb, 1990-2009)

In the following two years, there were many movies that were about a variety of different plots. *Flashdance* and *Footloose* were two hits based on dancing dreams. *Flashdance* inspired many of the fashions of the 80’s, and even so now with the sweatshirts that fall off the shoulder. *Footloose* inspired people to go about with what they believe and to follow their hearts. Staying seated without the urge to get up and dance while watching either movie was a tough task. *A Nightmare on Elm Street* is another major horror film about psychopath Freddy Krueger invading in one girl and her friends’ dreams and killing some in their sleep. These reoccurring nightmares about the badly scarred figure with razor-sharp “finger knives” keep the teens awake, afraid that they might be the next to go. (The 80s Movies Rewind, 2008) (IMDb, 1990-2009)

The rest of the decade produced movies that didn’t fail the growing popularity of the early 1980’s hits. *The Breakfast Club*, about five students from widely different backgrounds forced to spend a Saturday morning detention together, showed people that sharing your fears, secrets, and deepest emotions and problems wasn’t the end of the world. Tom Cruise steals the big screen as a character named Maverick who is sent to the Top Gun Naval Flying School where he struggles to be the best pilot despite the other students in the movie *Top Gun*. Another dance-based movie, entitled *Dirty Dancing*, was about a sweet, daddy’s girl named Baby who goes to a resort with her family, not knowing that she is going to become infatuated with the camp’s dance instructor, Johnny. Her father is completely against “those people” and bans her from further association with Johnny. Johnny proves to her father that he is a good person and her father accepts him. In one final show-stopping dance together, Baby comes to realize that she will always love him. *Beetlejuice* was a movie about a dead “normal” couple who decorated a house and made it their own until a family moved in. the couple tried to scare them out, but fails. They call upon the people-exorcizer Beetle juice to help out. They later find that his tactics are too dangerous and attempt to contain him and save the family that they were once trying to boot out. (The 80s Movies Rewind, 2008) (IMDb, 1990-2009)

The 1980’s movie era went out with a bang when they produced *Batman*, the third grossing movie of the 80’s. It takes place in Gotham City that becomes increasingly unsafe. A dark knight known as Batman helps to defeat evil and keep the city and its citizens safe. His biggest challenge is to overtake the psychotic, unpredictable Joker who is trying to seize control over Gotham city. Batman must stop him in his tracks before it’s too late. (The 80s Movies Rewind, 2008) (IMDb, 1990-2009)

Anywhere you look you can find something, big or small, that the 80’s left its footprints on. Some of the fashions from the 80’s are now becoming popular again, like the off-the-shoulder shirts and leggings, which were worn by a lot of actresses in the movies. Even as much as prom dresses are being inspired by the 80’s generation. Big movies of that decade are being remade into even bigger movies today. The 1980’s were an inspirational decade showing movies in multiplex cinemas (Project 80’s, 2009). It was a decade of great accomplishments.